

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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R 192015Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5758

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS BR

SUBJ: CONSULTATION ON OAS REFORM

REF: BRASILIA 3635

SUMMARY: WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REVIEW
US PROPOSALS ON OAS REFORM AT SANTIAGO, SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR OAS AFFAIRS HAS INDICATED THAT
BRAZIL SEES STRONG OPPOSITION AMONG OTHER MEMBERS TO US
PROPOSALS. WHILE HE CLAIMED BRAZIL CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY
IN FAVOR OF BOTH US REFORM PROPOSALS AND OUR SUGGESTED
TACTICS AT SANTIAGO, QUESTION IS WHETHER AND HOW MUCH BRAZIL
WOULD BE WILLING TO GO AGAINST CONSENSUS IN FIGHTING FOR THEM.
END SUMMARY.

1. POL COUNSELOR FOLLOWED UP ON MAY 13 WITH AMBASSADOR
DUARTE, CHIEF OF AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPT.,
ON OUR APRIL 27 DEMARCHE REGARDING OUR TACTICS AT
SANTIAGO ON OAS REFORM (REFTEL). DUARTE SAID HE STILL
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HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO

HAS BEEN OUT ILL, BUT HE PROVIDED FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT FROM HIS OWN VANTAGE POINT.

2. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS IN FACT IN FAVOR OF OUR ORIGINAL REFORM PROPOSALS (EXCEPT FOR THE ACCESSION OF MINI-STATES) BUT HE ADMITTED SOME UNCERTAINTY ON ITAMARATY'S PART ABOUT THE TACTIC OSA "SPECIAL STUDY GROUP" THE US IS PROPOSING FOR THE SANTIAGO MEETING. THE PROCESS FOR ALLOCATING SEATS ON THE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP COULD BE TROUBLESOME AND DIVISIVE. HE REPEATED THAT BRAZIL REMAINS GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF OUR REFORM PROPOSALS AND OUR TACTICS, BUT THE QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED BY THE MINISTER IS WHETHER OR HOW MUCH BRAZIL WOULD BE WILLING TO GO AGAINST THE CONSENSUS IN FIGHTING FOR THEM.

3. DUARTE QUESTIONED THE DEPTH OF THE SUPPORT WE BELIEVED WE MIGHT BE GETTING FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, NOTING THAT THE BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PERMANENT COUNCIL HAD REPORTED A STRONG RESISTANCE AMONG OTHER LATIN MAERICAN MEMBERS TO THE US PROPOSALS. DUARTE COMMENTED THAT, WHEN APPROACHED BY THE US ON SUCH MATTERS, FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE OFTEN LIKELY TO RESPOND RECEPTIVELY, BUT WHEN THESE PROPOSALS ARE THEN REFERRED TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AT OAS IN WASHINGTON, WHO FREQUENTLY HAVE CONSIDERABLE CLOUT AND POLICYMAKING AUTONOMY, THE REACTION MORE OFTEN IS STRONGLY NEGATIVE.

4. DUARTE NOTED THAT THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM THE DAY BEFORE TO DISCUSS OASGA AND TO STRESS THE POINT THAT THE NEXT STEP WAS A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE THE CHARTER REFORMS PROPOSED BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL. HE SAID THE PERUVIANS PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE OF OUR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL STUDY GROUP AND REJECTED THE APPROACH AS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY.

5. HE REITERATED THAT BRAZIL DOESN'T LIKE THE PROPOSED REFORMS PRODUCED BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL BUT CAN LIVE WITH THEM, JUST AS HE THOUGHT THE UNITED STATES COULD LIVE WITH SUCH THINGS AS "COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY," WHICH HE SAW AS HAVING LITTLE PRACTICAL AFFECT. POL
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COUNSELOR RECALLED AMBASSADOR MAILLAIRDS EXPLANATION OF THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING SENATE RATIFICATION OF A TREATY WITH SUCH LANGUAGE IN IT. DUARTE AGREED, NOTING THAT BRAZIL HAD OPPOSED SOME OF MORE EXTREME POINTS OF ORIGINAL SELA CHARTER FOR SIMILAR REASONS.

6. DUARTE CLOSED BY PROMISING TO GET BACK TO US ONCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.

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